

Application No. 10/696,249
Response filed November 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed October 22, 2004

**Request for Confirmation of
Consideration of References**

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed on July 16, 2004, and included a suitable List of References Cited by Applicant(s) form (PTO-1449). To date Applicants have not received confirmation that the cited references have been considered.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to confirm that the cited information has been considered by initialing and returning to Applicants' undersigned attorney a copy of the PTO-1449 form (it has been confirmed that the PTO-1449 form is part of the Image File Wrapper for this application).

**The Double-Patenting
Rejection**

Claims 1-5 were rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3-9, 12, 17, 18, and 21-27 20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,666,551.

Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, and solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer to the '551 patent. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

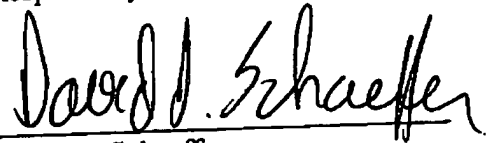
Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding rejections have been addressed and are now either overcome or moot. Applicants further submit that all claims pending in this application are patentable over the prior art. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of those rejections is respectfully requested.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees now or hereafter due in this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709, including the fees required for the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer (a Fee Transmittal form is submitted herewith).

In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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